

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled):

Claim 19 (New): A chlorhexidine composition comprising:  
chlorhexidine and  $\Delta$ -gluconolactone, wherein the chlorhexidine and  $\Delta$ -gluconolactone  
are present in a molar ratio of 1:2 to 1:2.2, and  
a microbicidally active quaternary ammonium bromide comprising cetramide;  
wherein said chlorhexidine composition is water soluble and in the form of a powder,  
granule or tablet.

Claim 20 (New): The chlorhexidine composition of claim 19 in the form of a powder.

Claim 21 (New): The chlorhexidine composition of claim 19 in granular form.

Claim 22 (New): The chlorhexidine composition of claim 19 in the form of a tablet.

Claim 23 (New): The chlorhexidine composition of claim 19, wherein the  
microbicidally active quaternary ammonium bromide consists of cetramide.

Claim 24 (New): The chlorhexidine composition of claim 19, wherein the  
chlorhexidine and the cetrimide are in a weight ratio ranging from 1:2 to 1:20.

Claim 25 (New): The chlorhexidine composition of claim 19, wherein the  
chlorhexidine and the cetrimide are in a weight ratio ranging from 1:5 to 1:20.

Claim 26 (New): A method for making a chlorhexidine composition comprising:  
mixing chlorhexidine and  $\Delta$ -gluconolactone, wherein the chlorhexidine and  $\Delta$ -gluconolactone are present in a molar ratio of 1:2 to 1:2.2, and a microbicidally active quaternary ammonium bromide which comprises cetramide to form a mixture, and optionally pistillating, granulating, or tableting said mixture to form a powder, granule or tablet.

Claim 27 (New): A method for forming an aqueous or aqueous-organic solution comprising:  
mixing the chlorhexidine composition of claim 19 with a liquid containing water to form an aqueous or an aqueous-organic solution.

Claim 28 (New): The method of Claim 27, wherein the liquid further comprises up to 2% of an alcohol selected from the group consisting of n-propanol, isopropanol, and ethanol.

Claim 29 (New): An aqueous or aqueous-organic solution produced by the method of Claim 27.

Claim 30 (New): A method for disinfecting a surface comprising:  
applying the solution of claim 29 to a surface.